

REMARKS

Claims 16-30 and 32-41 are pending in this application. Claims 16, 17, 19-25, 27, 29, 30, 32-38, and 40 stand rejected and claims 18, 26, 28, 31, 39, and 41 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18, 26, 28, 31, 39, and 41 but refrains from rewriting these claims in independent form until final resolution of the independent claims from which they depend. By this Amendment, claims 16, 18, and 29 have been amended and claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice. The amendments made to claims 16 and 18 do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 16, 17, 19, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 37, 38, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,046,653 (Yamada). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 16 not present in the cited reference is an input impedance of said input-stage IC element and an output impedance of said output stage IC element are equal to a first impedance. This feature is not shown in Yamada as set forth in the Office Action.

The Office Action asserts that the above-recited feature is disclosed in Yamada at column 9, lines 62-64. However, the cited portion of Yamada discloses that the output impedances of the bi-directional buffers 10' and 20' are 30 ohms and that the internal wiring lines 16 and 19 which are the output and input matching lines. However, none of these elements are the input impedance and output impedance explicitly recited in claim 16 that are equal to a first impedance. The "first impedance" recited in claim 16

of the present invention does not correspond to the "output impedance of the transmission buffer" shown, for example, in Fig. 1 of Yamada. Thus, claim 16 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Yamada.

Further, Yamada discloses a technique for achieving impedance matching between ICs in a MCM (multi-chip-module). The present claims are directed to a technique wherein the impedance of the ICs, which are impedance-matched there between, is different between the internal of the module and the external of the module, i.e., the internal impedance is higher than the external impedance. More specifically, in the present invention, the input and output impedances of the ICs configuring the external input and output impedances of the module are 50 ohms, whereas the impedances of the input and output of an IC connected to the output and input, respectively, of another IC are higher than 50 ohms.

Among the limitations of independent claim 29 not present in the cited reference is wherein said matching impedance differs between two of said signal transmission paths. The Office Action acknowledges that this feature is not present in Yamada. Applicant has included this limitation in claim 29. Thus, claim 29 and its dependent claims are now allowable over Yamada and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in light of Yamada.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 33, 34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Suzuki. Suzuki was not included to cure the deficiencies in Yamada discussed above with respect to claim 16 and amended claim 29. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the

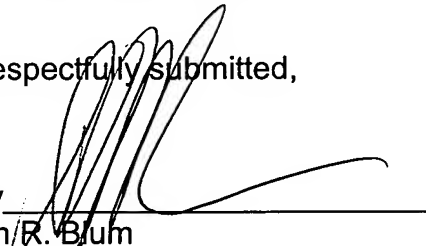
Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY
LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs